

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

8:30 a.m.

Welcome – Mark Schultz

Room: Crystal 1-2

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

1. Office Director Focus Session – Mark Schultz - Diamond 1
2. iPads: Unleash the Potential – Tibor Moldovan, Dana Daigre, Laurie Venditte - Diamond 3
3. Rentwise – Lauren Rock - Diamond 2
4. Brand Ambassadors for Nebraska VR – Pia Brady - Diamond 6
5. Motivational Interviewing with Criminal Justice Populations – Erik Henderson - Diamond 7

10:45 a.m.

Main Street – Break

Ballroom/Pre-Function Area

11:00 a.m. – 12 noon

1. VR Associate Focus Session – Mark Schultz - Diamond 1
2. Transition Focus Session – Mark Mason - Diamond 7
3. Rentwise – Lauren Rock - Diamond 2
4. AT Leads to Work – Corinne Holtz, Travis Rouse, Roxanne Rowley, Doug Rourke, Desiree Vallier, Brent Dierksen, Marcy Feik, Georgia Byrn - Diamond 3
5. Social Media for Nebraska VR– Sarah Chapin - Diamond 6

12 noon – 1:15 .m.

Lunch – Steve Wooderson, CSAVR

Room: Crystal 1-2

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

1. Vocational Evaluators Focus Session – Mark Schultz – Diamond 1
2. Individuals with Autism on the Job – Sonja Chatfield - Diamond 2
3. AT Leads to Work – Corinne Holtz, Travis Rouse, Roxanne Rowley, Doug Rourke, Desiree Vallier, Brent Dierksen Marcy Feik, Georgia Byrn - Diamond 3
4. Motivational Interviewing with Criminal Justice Populations – Erik Henderson - Diamond 7
5. Diversity and Inclusion – Larry Wayne - Diamond 6

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

1. Counselor Focus Session – Mark Schultz - Diamond 1
2. Diversity and Inclusion – Larry Wayne - Diamond 7
3. Brand Ambassadors for Nebraska VR – Pia Brady - Diamond 6
4. iPads: Unleash the Potential – Tibor Moldovan, Dana Daigre, Laurie Venditte - Diamond 3
5. ATP Alternative Financing – David Altman, Lauren Rock, Mary Reece - Diamond 2

3:30 p.m.

Main Street – Break -Ballroom/Pre-Function Area

3:45 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

1. Placement Focus Session – Mark Schultz - Diamond 1
2. Individuals with Autism on the Job – Sonja Chatfield - Diamond 2
3. Motivational Interviewing with Criminal Justice Populations – Erik Henderson - Diamond 7
4. iPads: Unleash the Potential – Tibor Moldovan, Dana Daigre, Laurie Venditte - Diamond 3
5. Social Media for Nebraska VR– Sarah Chapin - Diamond 6

Tuesday, October 23, 2012

6:30 p.m.

**Banquet – Juli Burney
Humor in the Workplace
Crystal 1-2**

8:00 p.m.

**State Staff Trivia Night!!
Crystal 1-2**

**By now you've accumulated a lifetime of obscure knowledge ...
what in the world to do with it?! You don't have to be a brainiac to
play and will have loads of fun! You WILL NOT want to miss STATE
STAFF TRIVIA NIGHT!**



Wednesday, October 24, 2012

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

- 1. Time Management – Jana Walker – Diamond 1**
- 2. Team Communication – Constructive Criticism – David DeChant – Diamond 2**
- 3. Team Sharing with Steve Wooderson – Mark Schultz – Diamond 3**
- 4. Search in Nebraska – Jim Coyle, Judy Vohland, Tammy Laird, Shelley Dahl, Felipe Cruz – Diamond 6**
- 5. Motivational Interviewing with Mental Health Populations – Denise Stuart – Diamond 7**

9:30 a.m.

**Main Street – Break
Ballroom/Pre-Function Area**

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

1. Time Management – Jana Walker – Diamond 1
2. Team Communication – Constructive Criticism – David DeChant – Diamond 2
3. Team Sharing with Steve Wooderson – Mark Schultz – Diamond 3
4. Certificate Programs – Cara Ehegartner, Ryan Stamm, Jim Coyle, JD Simmons, Liz Kohout, Frank Koch – Diamond 6
5. Motivational Interviewing with Mental Health Populations – Denise Stuart – Diamond 7

11:30 a.m.

Main Street

Ballroom/Pre-Function Area

11:45 a.m.

Lunch – Closing Comments – Mark Schultz
Crystal 1-2

Session Information and Trainer Bio's



iPads: Unleash the Unbridled Potential of Your iPad. In this session you will learn about different work related Apps that may just change your life.

Tibor Moldovan is the Data Center Supervisor and Senior IT Infrastructure Support Analyst. Tibor has provided technical assistance support to VR, CAP, and ATP computer users with patience and wit for the past 9 years. Tibor has a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from Mount Marty in Yankton, SD.

Dana Daigre is a Vocational Evaluator with the Omaha Downtown team. She recently marked her 10 anniversary with Nebraska VR where she has held various roles including Counselor and Post Secondary Monitor. Dana has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Grambling State University.

Laurie Venditte is a VR Associate with the Omaha West team. With over 25 years of dedicated service to Nebraska VR, Laurie has supported teams throughout the Omaha Metro Area with unmatched organization and attention to detail.



Rentwise. In this session Lauren will provide information on how VR staff can provide information to consumers by putting us into the consumer's shoes as they learn to navigate housing issues so many face.

Lauren Rock is the DHHS Program Coordinator with the Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) based in Lincoln, Nebraska. She has been with ATP since August 2004 and is responsible for the management of, and coordinating resources for all DHHS AT referrals.

In her previous position as ATP's Resource Specialist, Lauren coordinated the development and launch of the Nebraska Housing Database, www.housing.ne.gov, and was Chair of the RentWise-Nebraska Coalition.

Lauren has a Bachelor's of Natural Resource Science in Environmental Studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and has completed the course work for a Masters in Community and Regional Planning with a Community Development specialization, also at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Brand Ambassadors for Nebraska VR. Successful campaigns require organization, effective communication, and engaging clients, communities, and partners. A key component of the campaign is our staff. We are now brand ambassadors. So, what is a brand ambassador? What is our role in the campaign? How do we interact with the newly created Outreach and Marketing Team?

These questions, and more will be addressed during this session. Participants will learn outreach and marketing trends, and the mechanics of a successful outreach and marketing operation.

Pia Brady is new to Nebraska VR. She is a native of Youngstown, Ohio. She holds a B.A. from Youngstown State University, where she studied journalism and political science. She also obtained a Master's of Applied Politics degree from The University of Akron.

Pia worked in government for the State of Ohio for over 10 years. She is a former staff member of the Ohio House of Representatives, and the Ohio Secretary of State's office. Her last position with the State of Ohio was as a Business Operations and National Voter Registration Act Analyst. During the course of her work, she has met Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, Jessie Jackson, Pat Buchanan, and Dee Dee Meyers.

She is also a former advertisement writer and producer, broadcast journalist, and radio personality. While working for CBS and Fox television news affiliates, she was fortunate to interview celebrities like, Mike Tyson, Gloria Steinem, and Dan Marino.



Motivational Interviewing with Criminal Justice Populations.

There are unique challenges when working with individuals in the Criminal Justice System. This session will explore how the use of Motivational Interviewing can be helpful as well as some of the ways to navigate the challenges of VR compliance within this population.

Erik Henderson was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and currently resides in Columbia, MO. He received his bachelor's degree in Social Psychology, and Master's of Science Degree in Community Counseling. Erik has worked for both Washington State and Missouri as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and is currently working for the University of Missouri, Disability Policy & Studies, TACE Center. His passions are working with Transition Age Youth, Benefits Planning, and Motivational Interviewing.

AT Leads to Work. Technology is now found in every facet of the employment process. Are you ready to support your consumers with learning disabilities as they make transitions in education and the workforce? Let ATP help you become more comfortable with technologies that can support consumers as they make these

transitions. Bring your iPad for this hands on breakout session.
Learn how AT leads to work!

Corinne Holtz being creative in the Kearney ATP office for the last 4 years.

Doug Rourke minimizing employment barriers in the Omaha area for the past 9 years.

Desire Vallier helping the people of Omaha work successfully for the past 5 years.

Roxanne Rowley working with employers in the Kearney area for the last 13 years.

Travis Rouse finding solutions in the Lincoln area.

Brent Dierkson helping people live independently in western Nebraska for the last 10 years.

David Altman, founder, program coordinator, 23 years with ATP.

Marcy Feik has been involved with ATP/Education for the past 5 years.

Georgia Byrn has worked for ATP for 10+ years with the HHS and VR Programs.



Social Media for Nebraska VR. Sarah Chapin answers the following questions: What is it? Why is Nebraska VR using it? How would I use it in my job?

Sarah Chapin grew up in Clarks, NE and attended UNL twice (long story). She believes along with hard work that she makes her own luck by being open to opportunity. Beginning at the age of 12 she has been a waitress and fry cook, sales associate, Gallup interviewer, retail manager, intern/girl Friday, web-master and network administrator.

She has worked for Nebraska VR for 12 years as an applications developer and like you is glad Quest is dead.

Sarah, a little jealous of the staff who get to help people with disabilities achieve goals and independence, believes social media is changing the way people relate to each other and do business. Sarah wants to help staff use social media tools to help people with disabilities, prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment.

Sarah enjoys third grade jokes, funny people, travel, the outdoors, a good “social gathering” and time with her husband and family. She loves her role as “Bonus Nana” and is currently writing a couple of children’s books for her granddaughters.



Individuals with Autism on the Job. This presentation will describe the characteristics and learning styles of individuals with Autism, and provide practical strategies to assist them on the job.

Sonja Chatfield, M.S.E, is the Northeast Regional Autism Spectrum Disorders Coordinator for the Nebraska ASD Network. She provides technical assistance and information about evidence based research and training to local school districts and parents of children and youth with ASD. Sonja has been working with individuals on the Spectrum for 16 years.



Diversity and Inclusion. This session will address the value of diversity in the workplace particularly, and throughout our lives in general.

Larry Wayne is the Deputy Director, Division of Programs and Community Services, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Deputy Director Wayne began his career in corrections in August of 1975 at the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Wayne was appointed to his current position of Deputy Director for NDCS in 2003. His primary emphasis has been in providing oversight for Nebraska's Community Corrections Division including the community correctional centers, Work Ethic Camp, Parole Administration along with programming and agency community offender community reentry initiatives. Mr. Wayne's training experience includes: Cognitive Restructuring, Motivational Interviewing, and Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural Competency, just to name a few. Mr. Wayne has also served on the faculty for The University of Nebraska Department of Criminal Justice as an adjunct professor instructing a Community Corrections curriculum for junior and senior level undergraduate students.



ATP Alternative Financing. This session will provide participants with a fun introduction to the Assistive Technology Partnership's funding coordination process. Through an interactive presentation, ATP staff will review how they access local, State and Federal resources to meet various consumer needs. They will provide attendees with information how they can help their consumers locate and access these resources.

Lauren Rock is the DHHS Program Coordinator with the Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) in Lincoln. She has been with ATP since August 2004 and is responsible for the management of, and coordinating resources for, all DHHS AT referrals. In her previous position as ATP's Resource Specialist, Lauren coordinated the development and launch of the Nebraska Housing Database, www.housing.ne.gov, and was Chair of the RentWise-Nebraska Coalition. Lauren has a Bachelor's of Natural Resource Science in Environmental Studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and has completed the course work for a Masters in Community and Regional Planning with a Community Development specialization, also at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

David Altman has been with the Assistive Technology Partnership since its inception, 23 years ago. He was the agency's first Technology Specialist, and maintained that role for over 20 years. During that time, David developed many innovative techniques and devices in order to meet consumers' AT needs. In 2010, David transitioned into the role of ATP Vocational Rehabilitation Program Coordinator. Even with this change, David is always developing innovative ideas to serve consumers.

Mary Reece has just been with Assistive Technology Partnership since September 2012. As the current Resource Specialist, she is responsible for facilitating Service & Device applications and making funding referrals. She also works with the AT4All and housing.ne.gov websites. AT4All is a free online service for consumers to list and find adaptive equipment.

Housing.ne.gov is also a free online service where people can list or search for rental housing, especially accessible housing, throughout Nebraska. Mary has a background in counseling and training with a special focus in the rehabilitation field.



Humor in the Workplace. Juli Burney is an award winning teacher, humorist and author. Juli makes an amazing connection with her audiences. She is able to entertain with the ability of a headlining comedian while motivating or training with ease as a nationally recognized speaker. Juli has been honored by Nebraska as Artist of the Year because of her ability to help improve people's lives through humor and effective use of communication tools.

Juli has filmed for Showtime and HBO, along with making numerous guest appearances on radio and television programs. Her humor is insightful, delightful, universal and enlightening.

Time Management. During this session Jana Walker will present ten time management tips that – if practiced consistently – will reduce our stress and help us reclaim our personal life.

Jana is a Licensed Independent Mental Health and Licensed Drug and Alcohol Practitioner who has been employed with BestCare EAP for two years. During that time she has provided employee assistance counseling to employees of the State of Nebraska and other contracted companies. Jana has an extensive background on presentations and trainings from her previous employment and education. She has presented at the Nebraska Counseling Association and for other local organizations..

In addition to her counseling role with BestCare, she has conducted training on employee development and workplace improvement.



Team Communication – Constructive Criticism. During this session David DeChant will share how to facilitate open team communication and create an environment where constructive criticism can be shared with positive results.

David has earned advanced degrees in Theater and Organizational Psychology, and has been involved in training and development for the last 13 years. Prior to joining Best Care EAP, he worked for the Nebraska Department of Labor and for Bellevue University where he taught in its MBA and accelerated Master's in Management programs. Since joining Best Care EAP, David has presented seminars on individual, team, and organizational success to over 20,000 participants—94% of whom rated his facilitation as Very Good to Excellent. David originally hails from Hays, Kansas. He shares a charming, over-priced home in midtown Omaha with his wife, Donna (who is also an educator), and three too many cats.

Team Sharing with Steve Wooderson. During these sessions teams will have an opportunity to share information on initiatives they are currently working on to better serve the consumers we work with. In addition each session a selected team will present information on how the team approach works in Nebraska VR.

Steve Wooderson was selected as the CEO of CSAVR on November 1, 2010. Prior to joining CSAVR, Steve was the administrator of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services. He oversaw the state VR and independent living programs, as well as the disability determination services bureau. His experience in VR spans nearly 30 years of service in the public program.

Steve started as a VR counselor in south central Missouri in January of 1981 and he enjoyed a 20 year career with the Missouri agency. In March of 2000, Steve moved to Iowa to become the rehabilitation services chief, and then was appointed agency administrator in December of 2002. He has served at all professional levels in the public vocational rehabilitation program; which gives him a unique perspective of the local, state and national implications of VR service delivery. During Steve's tenure in Iowa, he also was adjunct faculty in the Drake University rehabilitation counseling program. He is a certified Dale Carnegie trainer and a retired Army Reserves Lieutenant Colonel.



Search in Nebraska. During this session Jim Coyle will talk about the growth of Search in Nebraska. Tammy Laird will share insights from the Search Conference in Austin, Texas and a Panel of staff will be prepared to answer why collaboration is essential to Search, funding of Search, challenges of doing Project Search, developing employer committees and 100% Placement.

Jim Coyle has been the leader in bringing Project Search opportunities to Nebraska.

Felipe Cruz has worked in the human social services field for more than 20 years with different populations: Migrant Farm Workers, HIV/AIDS at risk populations, Foster Parent System and youth in the OJS system.

Shelley Dahl has worked for VR for 38 years all in the Norfolk area. She has been involved in just a little bit of everything involved with case services!

Tammy Laird assisted with development of the Lincoln St. Elizabeth Project SEARCH site, and regularly presents on the effectiveness of the Project SEARCH model to area agencies and organizations and recently attended the international Project SEARCH conference in Austin, Texas.

Judy Vohland has been with the agency for 19 years. She has helped developed three Search sites.



Certificate Programs. This session will introduce staff to the Certificate Programs and answer the questions on what is the business driven model, share the Omaha Model, the GI model and how the teams have focused on recruitment, evaluation, soft skills, process and partnering.

Jim Coyle began working with employers and Community Colleges several years ago to develop Certificate programs to bridge the gap for students coming out of high school who needed specialized training for many of the opportunities employers had that didn't require Associate Degrees.

Ryan Stamm has been with VR since Feb 2008 and has worked in Transition and Eval. Prior to working with VR Ryan worked in Financial Aid and Transition for 8 years.

Cara Ehegartner has worked in Transition for Nebraska VR for 6 years. Prior positions include teaching high school Consumer Sciences in Special Education and wrap around youth counseling services.

Liz Kohout brings an array of employment and training experiences to VR and has been learning the many aspects of VR services for just over a year.

Frank Koch has been with VR since 1984 performing voc eval services. Prior to VR he was a high school guidance counselor, teacher and coach.

JD Simmons: Is a transition specialist in the York area.



Motivational Interviewing with Mental Health Populations. During this session Denise Stuart will discuss MI resources and techniques that Denise and Community Alliance staff use with individuals with Mental Illness.

Denise Stuart is the Vocation Division Manager at Community Alliance in Omaha. Denise has almost 20 years of experience working with individuals with mental illness and over 20 years of experience working with adults with disabilities. Since 2004, Denise has used Motivational Interviewing to assist clients with navigating change and recovery. In 2005, Denise completed her Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Administration at Drake University in Iowa. Currently, Denise is pursuing a second Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling also at Drake University.



Main Street. Chris Hess and the NSES/Abilities Fund staff are bringing Main Street Nebraska to State Staff again this year. A great opportunity to talk to some of our small business owners, learn about their entrepreneurial experience and shop! Play “Main Street Trivia” to win prizes provided by Main Street businesses. (See flyer attached to the State Staff registration email for more information.)



Meal Information



Tuesday Lunch

Deli Bar: Assorted Roast Beef, Smoked Pit Ham, and Turkey with Cheeses, Assorted Condiments and a Variety of Breads and Chips. Served with Lettuce Salad, Pasta Vinaigrette Salad, Chicken Tortilla Soup, and Minestrone Soup.



Tuesday Banquet

The Chuckwagon: Barbeque Pulled Pork, Carved Roast Beef, Fried Chicken, Homemade Coleslaw, Broccoli Salad, Potato Salad, Sweet Cornbread Muffins, Baked Beans, Buttered Corn, and Cheese Potatoes Al Gratin. Vanilla Bourbon Crème Brûlée or Carrot Cake for dessert!



Wednesday Lunch

Salad Bar: Tossed Salad Greens and Fresh Spinach Salad. Served with Choice of 3 dressings. Assorted Toppings include Julienne of Ham and Turkey, Shredded Cheese, Sliced Mushrooms, Sliced Olives, Fresh Croutons and Diced Tomatoes. Served with a Fresh Vegetable Display, Assortment of Breads, German Potato Salad, Broccoli Salad, Chicken Noodle and Tomato Basil Soup.

Miscellaneous Info



Going Paperless! Yes, this year we are going paperless! Power Points and other handouts for the sessions will be posted to the State Staff Wiki by Friday, October 19. The wiki site address will be sent to you when information has been posted to it. Staff with mobile technology (iPads, laptops) will be able to view the presentations using the wireless connection at the Younes Conference Center. Don't have mobile technology, no problem you can print out the power point/handouts before coming to Kearney (remember to print double sided).

Evaluations On-line: In addition we are creating the evaluations on-line using Survey Monkey. They will be available during State Staff and afterward. There will be sign in sheets at each session so if you forget which session you attended we can help you remember.



Planning Committee

Jim Coyle
Mark Schultz
Pia Brady
Mark Mason
Jeff Burke
Linda Kloos
Tammy Laird

Don Crouch
Judy Vohland
Dan Dulaney
Keri Bennett
Cassy Kvasnicka
Lisa Mitchell
Stacey Hauser

Janet Drudik
Terri Sautter
Pat Bracken
JD Simmons
Amelis Long
Katie Helzer
Becky Roh

